



Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care — Elks Share



December: A time of remembrance for us all

As a person who loves good eats and treats, this has to be one of my favorite times of the year. Holiday parties and events. Dinners with family and friends. College and NFL football—Go Gophers and Skol Vikings. And ice fishing! This is when we all get to enjoy our time with so many things.

The beginning of this month is an occasion to reflect on those who have left us. Those Members who have passed during this last year and those who have gone in the years before. Lodges hold the sacred Elks Memorial Day on the first Sunday in December. This is a statute of the Order, so please make sure to honor those Elks who have gone to be with God.

This is a fabulous month to give to those in need of assistance. These can be people of your own community, or even veterans in your hospitals. Reach



Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

PAUL R. RYAN

out to some of the groups for help on finding them and helping them. Grab a family and shop with them or go into a store and grab the cart and pay for it. No matter what you do, you will be fulfilled by any charity that you can do.

With all that Elks and families have going on in the month of December, do not let it get so out of hand that you forget to prepare for January. It is time to get ready for the All-American Lodge Contest. The

certification form for this can be found online at elks.org under the Fraternal Committee section. A revised form was sent back in September.

This is also the time to start pulling together the officers, ensuring they are all willing and able to move forward and to have a leader among them to continue the efforts you have made in your year. Also, it is the time to recruit new Members to become a part of the routine of becoming an officer. I suggest that you find a few younger Members to get involved. This will **“Create Momentum for the Future of Elkdom.”**

From my family—Stacey, Jordan and Alex, Cassaundra, and Jackson—we all wish you a very Merry Christmas and happy new year with good health and safe travels for you and all your families during this blessed holiday season.

Per capita and fees set for 2021-2022

For the 2021-2022 fraternal year, on April 1, 2021 the following per capita and fees will be due from each Member: Grand Lodge per capita \$6.50, insurance assessment \$7.00, and the Elks Magazine assessment \$5.50, for a total of \$19.00.

GRAND SECRETARY
Bryan R. Klatt

Even as the virus is ever prevalent, attention must be given towards retaining our delinquent Members as well as attracting new or reinstated Members.

With the continuing issues of COVID-19, the Memorial Building main entrance will remain closed until April 15, 2021. If you or someone you know are planning on visiting Chicago over the winter, call the Grand Secretary’s office, set-up a time, and staff can give you your own personal tour of the National Headquarters.

Season’s Greetings and Happy Holidays from your Grand Lodge staff.

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION

Elks offer crucial wildfire relief

Since the middle of August, wildfires have raged across the West Coast, spreading through California into the Pacific Northwest.

“It’s nasty here, to put it mildly,” said Emma Pletz, the Secretary of the Oregon State Elks Association. “The smoke is awful. It looks dark at noon. We have about a quarter mile visibility all around us.”

Pletz’s Lodge, Milwaukie-Portland, OR No. 142, mobilized to help people affected by the fires. As of press time, thousands of Oregonians had evacuated or were preparing to do so. The Lodge opened its parking lot and property for evacuees to park their RVs or set up campsites.

The Lodge rooms quickly filled up with donated necessities: clothing, diapers, food and produce, and bedding and toys for children.

“People have had to flee their homes, some with only minutes notice,” Pletz said. “Some got out with only the clothes on their backs.”

The Ashland area, in southern Oregon, has been hit hard by the fires, too. Ashland, OR Lodge No. 944 has become a hub for meals and donations. The Lodge opened its doors to the public so evacuees can find respite from the smoke, a warm meal, and any necessities they need, from toiletries to toys.

“I just need for people to come in and know that they are welcome to take these things,” said Colleen Hanson, an Ashland

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GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

Certificate celebrates businesses that fly the flag

By **DUNCAN P. THOMPSON**
Committee Member

The Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee continues its newest Americanism program, the “Certificate of Honor for Properly Flying the United States Flag.” The purpose of the program is for Elks Lodges to interact with and honor local businesses for properly displaying and flying the United States flag during the day and night with proper illumination.

This program provides an increasing Elks presence in our local communities as an essential and positive influence for growth and survival in the future.

The costs of this program are nil. Essentially, the only costs will be the price of paper and printing in house and delivering them to businesses in your area that comply with the proper display of the American flag.

The program is readily available on the Grand Lodge website. Elks

Lodges can print the certificate, which is a downloadable and fillable PDF document.

Use the following procedures to complete your award document:

Go to elks.org, then go to the Members Only page and click on officers and committees. The Grand Lodge Committee list will open. Choose the Fraternal Committee line for the committee dashboard to appear.

Under current contests and awards programs, click on the link to “Fly the Flag Program & Certificate (PDF).”

The certificate is on Page 2. You can either type in the pertinent details on the PDF in the web browser, or you can download the form and fill it out in whichever PDF viewer you use (for example, Adobe Acrobat). Or, you can print the certificate and fill it in by hand.

Fill in your recipient’s business name and address and the date of the

presentation. Have your Exalted Ruler and/or Americanism Chairman sign the certificate.

To print, go to settings and change to landscape. It is suggested that you use a #67 off white card stock for a most impressive look.

There is no limit as to how many you can give out as long as businesses qualify for the award. You can hold a formal ceremony, go to the business location and present the award, or any method you choose to deliver it to them.

As always, media invitations are welcome for this type ceremony. Don’t leave them out. Keep records of the number of certificates you award for reporting purposes and for your Lodge records.

Let’s increase our footprint in our communities with these presentations thus improving our image by our actions, showing that **Elks Care—Elks Share.**

GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Help young readers define success

By **WAYNE D. COTTERLY**
Committee Chairman

The Dictionary Project is a great way to help students become good writers, active readers, creative thinkers, and resourceful learners. The program is targeted for students in the third grade because educators see this grade level as the dividing line between learning to read and reading to learn. The program is also a great way to get Elks out into the community to show that we support our youth. The Dictionary Project is a 501(c)3 organization that began in 1992 and has grown tremendously over the years. While it is not an exclusive Elks program, our Order does support the project through the Activities Committee.

Information on how to run the program is readily available at the project’s website at dictionaryproject.org. The steps are simple: Select a school or schools in your community to sponsor; choose the books you wish to donate (including not only dictionaries, but thesauruses and reference books as well); place the order and send the donation to the Dictionary Project; and coordinate with the school to deliver the books in person to the students.

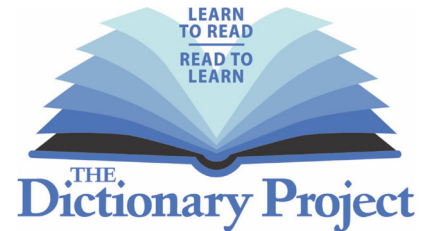
It is recommended that you work with the schools and the third grade teachers first to determine which books work best

for their students before ordering. The students love receiving their books, and the Elks have enjoyed delivering them. These books are a personal gift to each student to be used throughout their school years.

Several other organizations also participate in the Dictionary Project, and you may find that those organizations may have already donated to that school. Should this happen, use this opportunity to find out what other needs might be filled at the school and how your Lodge can help.

Also, while there, don’t forget to tell them about our other programs such as the Hoop Shoot, Soccer Shoot, Student Recognition Program, Drug Awareness Program, Antlers Program, and Junior Golf Program, or whatever local program your Lodge does for its youth. Bring some Elks brochures to share with the administration and teachers to tell them more about our Order. Additional information on the programs listed above are found in the Youth Activities Program Seminar booklet found on the Activities Committee page of elks.org.

If your Lodge has not yet participated in this project, we encourage you to consider joining. The Dictionary Project is a great opportunity to work with the schools and show that **Elks Care—Elks Share.**



RELIEF From Page 1

Member who is coordinating the Lodge’s disaster relief efforts.

Calpine, CA Lodge No. 2432 donated their Beacon Grant to the Plumas Crisis Intervention and Resource Center instead of hosting its annual Christmas party.

“Besides COVID, the communities of Plumas County have been impacted by wildfires that are currently causing evacuations of small communities,” said Ellen Vieira, Calpine’s grants coordinator.

One month ago, one of PCIRC’s largest resource centers burned down. The organization lost its emergency baby supplies. The Calpine Lodge’s donation will help replace those supplies and assist with emergency shelter for evacuees in motels.

“The fires are impacting local residents like never before,” Vieira said. “This is the worst fire season in our history and funds to assist the local residents are greatly needed.”

Lodges on the West Coast have proven that no matter the circumstance, the Elks will always step up and support their communities.

GRAND LODGE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE**Assisting during COVID? Report it!**

By **MARY R. WILLIAMS**
Committee Member

Merry Christmas! What a wonderful time of the year.

As Elks we are generous throughout the year, but especially at Christmas time. We gather food, toys, and presents for all, and with the help of our communities (Band of Brothers, police, sheriffs, state and local officials, and a lot of volunteers) we put it all together and deliver to those less fortunate. Please don't forget to put this on your Charity Report: include the volunteer hours and miles, because it all counts.

When COVID-19 hit, we were all in uncharted territory. We weren't sure what to do, but one veterans home reached out to an Elks Lodge with a request. Because of COVID-19 and quarantine, several of their suppliers who serviced the veterans home were afraid to deliver. So they reached out to an Elks Lodge and asked if they would deliver coffee. Without hesitation and after a few phone calls to Lodges in the district, they not only delivered coffee, food, games, stationery, stamps, and books, but they started making meals to be delivered every day, not only for the veterans, but the staff as well. That's what Elks do!

The wildfires that hit the West Coast

have been devastating. There are no words to express the loss of life, homes, and our states' beauty. One Lodge immediately opened its doors to those who were displaced, providing showers, food, and a parking lot for autos and trailers. The Exalted Ruler called the media for help, asking for blankets, clothes, food, water, and other staples; by the end of the day, they were overwhelmed with supplies.

This has been a very challenging year, to say the least. Let us be thankful for our families, friends, health, and each other. We have been through a lot, and I think we have learned a thing or two about ourselves and the world we live in today. Elks not only share—Elks Care. Lodges, State Associations, and Grand Lodge all have not only opened their hearts, but their pocket books and busy schedules to help our communities.

"Charity is the cornerstone of every Elks Structure and the Highest virtue of every Elks Creed." In order for us to keep our nonprofit status, and use more of our money for all the charitable works we do, we must document and report all of our activities.

The Government Relations team wants you to know we are here for you, and want to be sure no good deed goes unreported. Please let us know if we can help in any way.

GRAND LODGE PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP MARKETING**PR sees activity uptick in tough year**

By **RICK GATHEN**
PR and Membership Marketing Manager

How you react in difficult times shows your strength. We are tracking towards a record year with media mentions in newspapers, radio, and television. Our social media platforms are also on record pace with activity, helped by the new social shareable campaigns and new membership website called Join.Elks.Org.

Remarkable work is being done even though many Lodges are operating at restricted capacity because of COVID-19. The Elks remain active working for the betterment of their communities

throughout the nation. I marvel at Elks' strength and unyielding spirit, and I admire with amazement how we do it.

I have always been fond of this Teddy Roosevelt quote:

"The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, and whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions and spends himself in a worthy cause, who, at best, if he wins, knows the thrills of high achievement, and if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat."

Memorial service tradition dates to beginning of Elks

By **MIKE CHAMERNIK**
Publications Coordinator

The most festive month of the year begins with a solemn event: The first Sunday of every December is Elks Memorial Day.

The day is commemorated to the memories of departed Members. Per Section 2.020, the service is mandatory, even if there were no deaths within a given Lodge during the year.

The service consists of a speech from the Exalted Ruler, a prayer from the Chaplain, a roll call of the deceased, and an offering of a forget-me-not, an amaranth, and ivy to the Altar. "Auld Lang Syne" is then sung.

Additional songs, processions, and the lighting of candles are all encouraged. The ceremony is public (and can even be held in a church), but the Club and Social Parlor of a Lodge are closed.

The tradition is almost as old as the Order itself. According to the *History of the Order of the Elks*, the first such memorial services were performed in 1870, when two Members of New York, NY Lodge No. 1 died. Fellow Brothers suggested honoring them with a "Lodge of Sorrow" by decorating the Lodge and holding a session with songs and a eulogy.

In 1889, Exalted Grand Ruler (as the position was known then) Hamilton E. Leach recommended that the Memorial be observed annually, and the resolution was unanimously adopted at the Grand Lodge Session of 1890.

"The Elks Memorial Day is important because we use this day to honor and cherish the memories of those Elks who have passed away," said Mark Bump, PDDGER and Lodge Secretary for Joliet, IL Lodge No. 296. "It is one of the most moving ceremonies in all of Elkdom."

Bump said that he wasn't involved with the Elks until the death of his father, a Member for 11 years. Bump attended a Memorial Day ceremony where his father was honored and it helped inspire him to join.

"I never went to the Lodge or wanted to get involved with the organization until his passing and I am grateful that I did," Bump said. "As I have moved up the ranks in my 26 years as a Member I have learned more and more about this organization everyday. I am thankful for the people I have met, not just from my own Lodge but Elks across the state of Illinois and the country."



Recognition greases the wheels of Elkdom

By **JOHN D. AMEN, PGER**
Commission Chairman

The Elks have a long and storied history of serving the community. We operate with only a handful of paid positions among our hundreds of thousands of Members nationwide. We accomplish our mission with volunteers. How do we accomplish the great things we do and keep our hard-working volunteers coming back for more? We do not pay them with money. We pay them with gratitude for the jobs well done. If volunteerism is the engine that drives our organization, then recognition for worthy and diligent Members is the fuel for meritorious accomplishments.

We don't perform our charitable services to seek recognition. But when a job well done is recognized by our peers and leaders it becomes an unsought reward that helps validate the time, work, and passion that we have invested.

Recognition is extremely important in all phases of what we do. Veterans service is no exception. We are motivated by love of country and the desire to help and serve those who have defended our beloved freedoms. Our nation owes an unpayable debt to our servicemen and women: a helping hand from an Elks volunteer goes a long way

toward making a veteran feel that they are truly thanked for their service.

It is now time to ponder a most appropriate form of recognition for outstanding service to veterans. I am talking about the Veteran Volunteer of the Year Awards. You can write your own letter to nominate a worthy candidate, or you can use the nomination form available in the Volunteer Resource

Center at elks.org/vets. There is meaningful recognition in simply being nominated for the prestigious award. Who knows? You may be the one who nominates your State's winner!



BRYAN R. KLATT, Grand Secretary
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DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

Marijuana concentrates are addictive, dangerous

By **WILLIAM J. BRYAN**
Assistant National Director

A marijuana concentrate is a highly potent THC concentrated mass, similar in appearance to honey or butter and either brown or gold in color. The different forms include hash or honey oil (a gooey substance), wax or butter (soft, lip balm-like substance), and shatter (a hard, solid substance).

How is it made? A popular extraction method uses butane, a solvent that is put through an extraction tube filled with marijuana. The butane evaporates, leaving a sticky liquid known as "wax" or "dab."

This method is dangerous because butane is highly flammable. There have been explosions in houses, apartment

buildings, and other locations where someone tried the extraction.

Concentrates are used in a few ways:

- Infusing marijuana concentrates in various food or drink products.
- Smoking remains the most popular form of ingestion by use of water or oil pipes or heated in a glass bong.
- Electronic cigarettes (also known as e-cigarettes) or vaporizers. Many users of marijuana concentrates prefer the e-cigarette/vaporizer because it's smokeless, odorless, and easy to hide or conceal. The user takes a small amount of marijuana concentrate, referred to as a "dab," then heats the substance using the e-cigarette/vaporizer producing vapors that ensures an instant "high" effect upon the user. Using an e-cigarette/

vaporizer to ingest marijuana concentrates is commonly referred to as "dabbing" or "vaping."

What are the Effects of Using Marijuana Concentrates? Marijuana concentrates have a much higher level of THC. The effects of using may be more severe, both psychologically and physically.

Lastly, as Elks, we need to know the slang that is being used. If you hear people referring to "710" (the word "OIL" flipped and spelled backwards), wax, ear wax, honey oil, budder, butane hash oil, butane honey oil (BHO), shatter, dabs (dabbing), black glass, or errl, you'll know they are talking about marijuana concentrate.

Stay informed!